

FINITE 2-DISTANCE TRANSITIVE GRAPHS

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ABSTRACT. A non-complete graph Γ is said to be $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive if G is a subgroup of the automorphism group of Γ that is transitive on the vertex set of Γ , and for any vertex u of Γ , the stabilizer G_u is transitive on the sets of vertices at distance 1 and 2 from u . This paper investigates the family of $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graphs that are not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. Our main result is the classification of such graphs of valency not greater than 5.

1. INTRODUCTION

Graphs that satisfy certain symmetry conditions have been a focus of research in algebraic graph theory. We usually measure the degree of symmetry of a graph by studying if the automorphism group is transitive on certain natural sets formed by combining vertices and edges. For instance, s -arc transitivity requires that the automorphism group should be transitive on the set of s -arcs (see Section 2 for precise definitions). The class of s -arc transitive graphs have been studied intensively, beginning with the seminal result of Tutte [13] that cubic s -arc transitive graphs must have $s \leq 5$. Later, in 1981, Weiss [15], using the finite simple group classification, showed that there are no 8-arc transitive graphs of valency at least 3. For a survey on s -arc transitive graphs, see [12].

Recently, several papers have considered conditions on undirected graphs that are similar to, but weaker than, s -arc transitivity. For examples of such conditions, we mention local s -arc transitivity, local s -distance transitivity, s -geodesic transitivity, and 2-path transitivity. Devillers et al. [4] studied the class of locally s -distance transitive graphs, using the normal quotient strategy developed for s -arc transitive graphs in [11]. The condition of s -geodesic transitivity was investigated in several papers [5, 6, 8]. A characterization of 2-path transitive, but not 2-arc transitive graphs was given by Li and Zhang [10].

In this paper we study the class of 2-distance transitive graphs. If G is a subgroup of the automorphism group of a graph Γ , then Γ is said to be $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive if G acts transitively on the vertex set of Γ , and a vertex stabilizer G_u is transitive on the neighborhood $\Gamma(u)$ of u and on the second neighborhood $\Gamma_2(u)$ (see Section 2). The class of $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graphs is larger than the class of $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs, and in this paper we study the $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graphs that are not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.

Our first theorem links the structure of $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs to their valency and the value of the constant c_2 in the intersection array (see Definition 2.1).

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Γ	valency	girth	G	Reference
$\overline{(2 \times 4)}\text{-grid}$	3	4	satisfies Condition 3.1	Section 3.1
Octahedron	4	3	$G \leq S_2 \wr S_3$, $ S_2 \wr S_3 : G \in \{1, 2\}$, G projects onto S_3	Lemma 3.4
$H(2, 3)$	4	3	$G \leq S_3 \wr S_2$, $ S_3 \wr S_2 : G \in \{1, 2\}$ G projects onto S_2	Proposition 5.2
the line graph of a connected $(G, 3)$ -arc transitive graph	4	3		Proposition 5.2
$\overline{(2 \times 5)}\text{-grid}$	4	4	satisfies Condition 3.1	Section 3.1
Icosahedron	5	3	$G \in \{A_5, A_5 \times C_2\}$	Lemma 3.5
$\overline{(2 \times 6)}\text{-grid}$	5	4	satisfies Condition 3.1	Section 3.1

TABLE 1. $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs of valency at most 5

Theorem 1.1. *Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graph of girth 4 and valency $k \geq 3$. Then $2 \leq c_2 \leq k - 1$ and the following are valid.*

- (i) *If $c_2 = k - 1$, then $\Gamma \cong \overline{(2 \times (k + 1))\text{-grid}}$ and G satisfies Condition 3.1.*
- (ii) *If $c_2 = 2$, then k is a prime-power such that $k \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and G_u acts 2-homogeneously, but not 2-transitively on $\Gamma(u)$ for each $u \in V\Gamma$.*

The following corollary is a characterization of the family of connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs of girth 4 and prime valency.

Corollary 1.2. *Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graph of girth 4 and prime valency p , and let $u \in V\Gamma$. Then the following are valid.*

- (i) *Either $\Gamma \cong \overline{(2 \times (p + 1))\text{-grid}}$, or $c_2 | p - 1$ and $2 \leq c_2 \leq (p - 1)/2$.*
- (ii) *If $c_2 = 2$, then $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and G_u is 2-homogeneous, but not 2-transitive on $\Gamma(u)$.*
- (iii) *If $c_2 = (p - 1)/2$, then $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 2p$, and G_u is imprimitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$.*

Finally, our third main result determines all the possible $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs of valency at most 5.

Theorem 1.3. *Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graph of valency $k \leq 5$. Then Γ and G must be as in one of the rows of Table 1.*

In Section 2 we state the most important definitions and some basic results related to 2-distance transitivity. In Section 3, we study some examples, such as grids, their complements, Hamming graphs, complete bipartite graphs, and platonic solids from the point of view of 2-distance transitivity. In Section 4, we consider 2-distance transitive graphs of girth 4. Finally the proofs of our main results are given in Section 5.

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2. BASIC DEFINITIONS AND USEFUL FACTS

In this paper, graphs are finite, simple, and undirected. For a graph Γ , let $V\Gamma$ and $\text{Aut } \Gamma$ denote its vertex set and automorphism group, respectively. Let Γ be a graph and let u and v be vertices in Γ that belong to the same connected component. Then the *distance* between u and v is the length of a shortest path between u and v and is denoted by $d_\Gamma(u, v)$. We denote by $\Gamma_s(u)$ the set of vertices at distance s from u in Γ and we set $\Gamma(u) = \Gamma_1(u)$. The *diameter* $\text{diam } \Gamma$ of Γ is the greatest distance between vertices in Γ . Let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$ and let $s \leq \text{diam } \Gamma$. We say that Γ is (G, s) -*distance transitive* if G is transitive on $V\Gamma$ and G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_i(u)$ for all $i \leq s$. If Γ is (G, s) -distance transitive for $s = \text{diam } \Gamma$, then we simply say that it is G -*distance transitive*. By our definition, if $s > \text{diam } \Gamma$, then Γ is not (G, s) -distance transitive. For instance, the complete graph is not $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive for any group G .

In the characterization of (G, s) -distance transitive graphs, the following constants are useful. Our definition is inspired by the concept of intersection arrays defined for the distance regular graphs (see [2]).

Definition 2.1. Let Γ be a (G, s) -distance transitive graph, $u \in V\Gamma$, and let $v \in \Gamma_i(u)$, $i \leq s$. Then the number of edges from v to $\Gamma_{i-1}(u)$, $\Gamma_i(u)$, and $\Gamma_{i+1}(u)$ does not depend on the choice of v and these numbers are denoted, respectively, by c_i , a_i , b_i .

Clearly we have that $a_i + b_i + c_i$ is equal to the valency of Γ whenever the constants are well-defined. Note that for $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graphs, the constants are always well-defined for $i = 1, 2$.

A sequence (v_0, \dots, v_s) of vertices of a graph is said to be an s -*arc* if v_i is connected to v_{i+1} for all $i \in \{0, \dots, s-1\}$ and $v_i \neq v_{i+2}$ for all $i \in \{0, \dots, s-2\}$. A graph Γ is called (G, s) -*arc transitive* if G acts transitively on the set of vertices and on the set of s -arcs of Γ . (We note that some authors define (G, s) -arc transitivity only requiring that G should be transitive on the set of s -arcs.) It is well-known, that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive if and only if G is transitive on $V\Gamma$, and the stabilizer G_u is 2-transitive on $\Gamma(u)$ for some, and hence for all, $u \in V\Gamma$. We will use this fact without further reference in the rest of the paper.

The *girth* of a graph Γ is the length of a shortest cycle in Γ . Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graph. If Γ has girth at least 5, then for any two vertices u and v with $d_\Gamma(u, v) = 2$, there exists a unique 2-arc between u and v . Hence if Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, then it is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. On the other hand, if the girth of Γ is 3, and Γ is not a complete graph, then some 2-arcs are contained in a triangle, while some are not. Hence Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. We record the conclusion of this argument in the following lemma.

Lemma 2.2. *Suppose that Γ is a $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graph. If Γ has girth at least 5, then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. If Γ has girth 3, then Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.*

If Γ has girth 4, then Γ can be $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. An infinite family of examples can be constructed using Lemma 3.2.

We close this section with two results on permutation group theory and another one on 2-geodesic transitive graphs. They will be needed in our analysis in Sections 4–5. Recall that a permutation group G acting on Ω is said to be *2-homogeneous* if G is transitive on the set of 2-subsets of Ω .

Lemma 2.3 ([9]). *Let G be a 2-homogeneous permutation group of degree n which is not 2-transitive. Then the following statements are valid:*

- (i) $n = p^e \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ where p is a prime;
- (ii) $|G|$ is odd and is divisible by $p^e(p^e - 1)/2$;

Lemma 2.4. ([7, Theorem 1.51]) *If G is a primitive, but not 2-transitive permutation group on $2p$ letters where p is a prime, then $p = 5$ and $G \cong A_5$ or S_5 .*

An *s-geodesic* in a graph Γ is a shortest path of length s between vertices in Γ . In particular, a vertex triple (u, v, w) with v adjacent to both u and w is called a *2-geodesic* if u and w are not adjacent. A non-complete graph Γ is said to be *$(G, 2)$ -geodesic transitive* if G is transitive on both the arc set and on the set of 2-geodesics of Γ . Recall that the *line graph* $L(\Gamma)$ of a graph Γ is graph whose vertices are the edges of Γ and two vertices of $L(\Gamma)$ are adjacent if and only if they are adjacent to a common vertex of Γ . For a natural number n , we denote by K_n the *complete graph* on n vertices.

Lemma 2.5. ([5, Theorem 1.3]) *Let Γ be a connected, non-complete graph of valency 4 and girth 3. Then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -geodesic transitive if and only if, either $\Gamma = L(K_4)$ or $\Gamma = L(\Sigma)$ where Σ is connected cubic $(G, 3)$ -arc transitive graph.*

We observe that the line graph of K_4 is precisely the octahedral graph (see Lemma 3.4).

3. CONSTRUCTIONS, EXAMPLES & NON-EXAMPLES

3.1. Complements of grids and complete bipartite graphs. For $n, m \geq 2$, we define the $(n \times m)$ -grid as the graph having vertex set $\{(i, j) \mid 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq m\}$, and two distinct vertices (i, j) and (r, s) are adjacent if and only if $i = r$ or $j = s$. The automorphism group of the $(n \times m)$ -grid, when $n \neq m$, is the direct product $S_n \times S_m$; when $n = m$, it is $S_n \wr S_2$. The complement $\bar{\Gamma}$ of a graph Γ , is the graph with vertex set $V\Gamma$, and two vertices are adjacent in $\bar{\Gamma}$ if and only if they are not adjacent in Γ . Clearly, $\text{Aut } \Gamma = \text{Aut } \bar{\Gamma}$. Of particular interest to us is the complement graph $\overline{(2 \times m)\text{-grid}}$. The graph in Figure 1 is the $\overline{(2 \times 4)\text{-grid}}$. Observe that for $\Gamma = (2 \times m)\text{-grid}$, we have $\text{diam } \Gamma = 3$, and

$$c_1 = 1, a_1 = 0, b_1 = m - 2, c_2 = m - 2, a_2 = 0, b_2 = 1.$$

Condition 3.1. Let $m \geq 3$ and let $\pi : S_2 \times S_m \rightarrow S_2$ be the natural projection. We say that a subgroup G of $S_2 \times S_m$ satisfies Condition 3.1 if $G\pi = S_2$ and $G \cap S_m$ is a 2-transitive, but not 3-transitive subgroup of S_m .

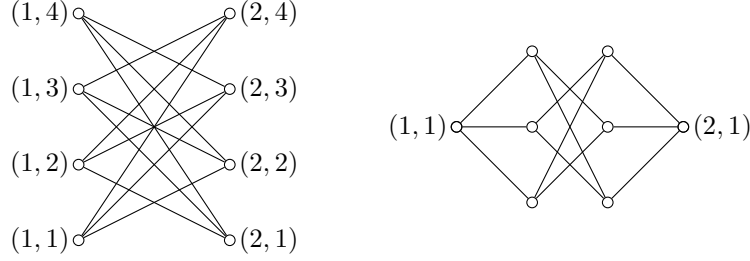


FIGURE 1. The grid complement $\overline{(2 \times 4)\text{-grid}}$; and on the right represented according to a distance-partition.

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\Gamma = \overline{(2 \times m)\text{-grid}}$ with $m \geq 4$, and let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma = S_2 \times S_m$. Then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive if and only if G satisfies Condition 3.1.*

Proof. Let $\Delta_1 = \{(1, i) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ and $\Delta_2 = \{(2, i) \mid i = 1, 2, \dots, m\}$ be the two biparts of $V\Gamma$. Let $u = (1, 1) \in \Delta_1$. Suppose first that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. Since G is transitive on $V\Gamma$, G projects onto S_2 , that is, $G\pi = S_2$. Let $H = G \cap S_m$. Then $G_u = H_1$, $\Delta_2 = \Gamma(u) \cup \{(2, 1)\}$ and $\Gamma_2(u) = \Delta_1 \setminus \{u\}$. Since Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, $G_u = H_1$ is transitive on both $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$. Hence H_1 is transitive on $\{2, \dots, m\}$, and so H is a 2-transitive subgroup of S_m . Since Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive, $G_u = H_1$ is not 2-transitive on $\{2, 3, \dots, m\}$, so H is not 3-transitive. Thus G satisfies Condition 3.1.

Conversely, suppose that G satisfies Condition 3.1. Then $H = G \cap S_m$ is transitive on Δ_1 and Δ_2 , and G swaps these two sets. Thus G is transitive on $V\Gamma$. As H is a 2-transitive, but not 3-transitive subgroup of S_m , H_1 is transitive, but not 2-transitive on $\Gamma(u) = \{(2, i) \mid i = 2, \dots, m\}$ and on $\Gamma_2(u) = \{(1, i) \mid i = 2, \dots, m\}$. Hence Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. \square

A list of 2-transitive, but not 3-transitive permutation groups can be found in [3, pp. 194-197].

Complete bipartite graphs appear frequently in this paper. Since $K_{m,n}$ with $m \neq n$ is not regular, we study $K_{m,m}$. The full automorphism group of $K_{m,m}$ is $S_m \wr S_2$, and this automorphism group acts 2-arc transitively on $K_{m,m}$. In the lemma below, we show that there is no 2-distance transitive action on $K_{m,m}$ which is not 2-arc transitive.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\Gamma \cong K_{m,m}$ with $m \geq 2$ and let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$. Then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive if and only if it is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.*

Proof. If Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive, then, by definition, it is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive. Conversely, suppose that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive with some $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$. Let $V\Gamma = \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2$ be the bipartition of $V\Gamma$ where $\Delta_1 = \{(1, i) \mid i = 1, \dots, m\}$ and $\Delta_2 = \{(2, i) \mid i = 1, \dots, m\}$. The full automorphism group of Γ is $S_m \wr S_2$. Since $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$ is assumed to be vertex transitive, $G_{\Delta_1} = G_{\Delta_2}$ is transitive on both Δ_1 and Δ_2 . Set $G_0 = G_{\Delta_1}$. Thus G_0 is a subdirect subgroup in $M^{(1)} \times M^{(2)}$ where $M^{(i)} \leq S_m$ and $M^{(i)}$ is the image of G_0 under the i -th coordinate projection $S_m \times S_m \rightarrow S_m$. Further, G projects onto S_2 under the natural projection $\text{Aut } \Gamma \rightarrow$

S_2 . If $x = (x_1, x_2)\sigma \in G$ with $x_i \in S_m$ and $\sigma = (1, 2) \in S_2$, then $(M^{(1)})^{x_1} = M^{(2)}$, and so $M^{(1)}$ and $M^{(2)}$ are conjugate subgroups of S_m . Hence possibly replacing G with its conjugate $G^{(x_1, 1)}$, we may assume without loss of generality that $M^{(1)} = M^{(2)} = M$.

Let $u = (1, 1) \in V\Gamma$. Then $\Gamma(u) = \Delta_2$ and $\Gamma_2(u) = \Delta_1 \setminus \{u\}$. Further, G_u stabilizes Δ_1 , and hence $G_u \leq G_0$. Since Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, it follows that G_u is transitive on both Δ_2 and $\Delta_1 \setminus \{u\}$. Set $H = M_1$. Since $G_u \leq H \times M$, the stabilizer H must be transitive on $\{2, \dots, m\}$, and hence M is a 2-transitive subgroup of S_m . In particular M contains a unique minimal normal subgroups N and this minimal normal subgroup is either elementary abelian or simple. Since N is transitive, we can write $M = NH$. We have that G_0 contains $1 \times N$ if and only if it contains $N \times 1$. Hence we need to consider two cases: the first is when G_0 contains $N \times N$ and the second is when it does not.

Suppose first that G_0 contains $N \times N$. In particular, $1 \times N \leq G_u$. For all $h_2 \in H$, there is some $n_1 h_1 \in M$ with $n_1 \in N$ and $h_1 \in H$ such that $(n_1 h_1, h_2) \in G_0$. Since $N \times 1 \leq G_0$, this implies that $(h_1, h_2) \in G_0$ and also $(h_1, h_2) \in G_u$. Thus G_u projects onto $NH = M$ by the second projection. Hence G_u is 2-transitive on $\Delta_2 = \Gamma(u)$, which shows that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.

Suppose now that $N \times N$ is not contained in G_0 . Since $G_0 \cap (1 \times M)$ is a normal subgroup of M and N is the unique minimal normal subgroup of M , we find that $G_0 \cap (1 \times M) = 1$ and, similarly, that $G_0 \cap (M \times 1) = 1$. Therefore G_0 is a diagonal subgroup; that is,

$$G_0 = \{(t, \alpha(t)) \mid t \in M\}$$

with some $\alpha \in \text{Aut } M$. As H is the stabilizer of 1 in M , we have that $G_u = \{(t, \alpha(t)) \mid t \in H\}$. On the other hand, G_u is transitive on Δ_2 , and hence $\alpha(H)$ is a transitive subgroup of M . Thus we obtain the factorization $M = H\alpha(H)$. The following possibilities are listed in [1, Theorem 1.1].

- (a) Either M is affine and is isomorphic to $[(\mathbb{F}_2)^3 \rtimes \text{PSL}(3, 2)] \wr X$ where X is a transitive permutation group;
- (b) or $\text{Soc } M \cong \text{P}\Omega_8^+(q)$, $\text{Sp}(4, q)$ (q even with $q \geq 4$), A_6 , M_{12} .

In case (a), if $X \neq 1$, then M is contained in a wreath product in product action, and such a wreath product is never 2-transitive. Thus $X = 1$, $m = 8$, $M = (\mathbb{F}_2)^3 \rtimes \text{PSL}(3, 2)$, and $G_u \cong \text{PSL}(3, 2)$ acting transitively on Δ_2 . However, this transitive action of $\text{PSL}(3, 2)$ is 2-transitive, which gives that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.

In case (b), inspecting the list of almost simple 2-transitive groups in [3], we find that there are no 2-transitive groups with socle $\text{P}\Omega_8^+(q)$ or $\text{Sp}(4, q)$ with q even and $q \geq 4$. Hence $\text{Soc } M = A_6$ or M_{12} . Then G_u is either A_5 , S_5 or M_{11} acting transitively on Δ_2 . These actions are all 2-transitive, which implies that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. \square

3.2. Hamming graphs and platonic solids. For $d, q \geq 2$, the vertex set of the *Hamming graph* $H(d, q)$ is the set $\{1, \dots, q\}^d$ and two vertices $u = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d)$ and $v = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_d)$ are adjacent if and only if their Hamming distance is one; that is, they differ in precisely one coordinate. The Hamming graph has diameter d and has girth 4 when $q = 2$ and girth 3 when $q > 2$. The wreath product $W = S_q \wr S_d$ is the full automorphism group of Γ , acting distance transitively, see [2, Section 9.2]. The Hamming graphs are well studied, due in part to their applications to coding theory. Hamming graphs arise in two cases of our research. The first case

is the cube $\Gamma = H(3, 2)$. The standard construction of the cube graph is precisely the same as for the Hamming graphs with $d = 3$ and $q = 2$, and so this graph is the ‘standard’ cube with 8 vertices (the cube $H(3, 2)$ is also isomorphic to the grid complement $\overline{(2 \times 4)\text{-grid}}$). The second case is $\Gamma = H(d, 2)$ when $d > 2$; see Lemma 4.3.

Some platonic solids (cube, octahedron and icosahedron) appear in some form in our investigation. The cube appears as the $\overline{(2 \times 4)\text{-grid}}$. We discuss in more detail the octahedron and the icosahedron. The octahedron (see Figure 2) has 6 vertices and diameter 2. Its automorphism group $S_2 \wr S_3$ acts imprimitively preserving the partition of vertices into antipodal pairs. We denote by π the natural projection $S_2 \wr S_3 \rightarrow S_3$.

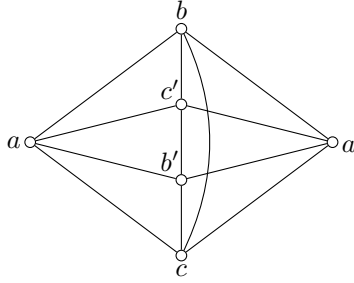


FIGURE 2. The octahedron, displayed according to its distance-partition.

Lemma 3.4. *Let Γ be the octahedron, and let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$. Then Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. Further, Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, if and only if either $G = S_2 \wr S_3$, or G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_2 \wr S_3$ and $G\pi = S_3$.*

Proof. Since Γ is non-complete of girth 3, Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. Now assume that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive. Let $u = a$ be the vertex in the graph of Figure 2. Since G_u is transitive on $\Gamma(u)$ and $|\Gamma(u)| = 4$, $|G_u|$ is divisible by 4. Further, $|G : G_u| = 6$, and so $|G|$ is divisible by 24. Suppose that G is a proper subgroup of $\text{Aut } \Gamma = S_2 \wr S_3$. Then $|G| = 24$. As $|\text{Aut } \Gamma| = 48$, G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_2 \wr S_3$. The three antipodal blocks of $V\Gamma$ in the graph of Figure 2 are $\Delta_1 = \{a, a'\}$, $\Delta_2 = \{b, b'\}$ and $\Delta_3 = \{c, c'\}$. Since G is transitive on $V\Gamma$, G is transitive on the three antipodal blocks. Thus the image $G\pi$ of G in S_3 is \mathbb{Z}_3 or S_3 . Assume $G\pi = \mathbb{Z}_3$. Then G_u acts on the three antipodal blocks trivially. Hence G_u does not map Δ_2 to Δ_3 , contradicting that G_u is transitive on $\Gamma(u)$. Therefore $G\pi = S_3$. Simple calculation shows that the conditions stated in the lemma are sufficient for 2-distance transitivity. \square

The icosahedron has automorphism group $S_2 \times A_5$ acting arc transitively.

Lemma 3.5. *Let Γ be the icosahedron, and let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma$. The graph Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive if and only if $G = S_2 \times A_5$ or $G = A_5$. In particular, Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive.*

Proof. By [6, Theorem 1.5], $\text{Aut } \Gamma \cong S_2 \times A_5$. It is easy to see that for $G \in \{S_2 \times A_5, A_5\}$, Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive. Suppose that Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive. Then G is transitive on $V\Gamma$ and G_u is transitive on $\Gamma(u)$, and so $12 = |V\Gamma|$ divides

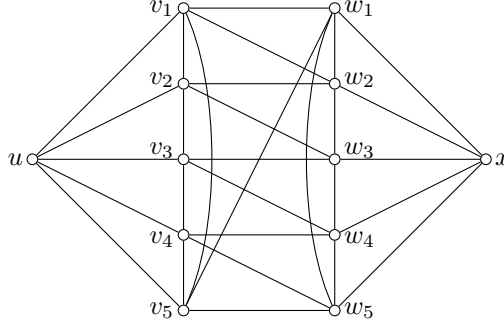


FIGURE 3. The icosahedron, displayed according to its distance-partition.

$|G|$ and $|\Gamma(u)| = 5$ divides $|G_u|$. Thus 60 divides $|G|$. Since $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma \cong S_2 \times A_5$, it follows that $G = S_2 \times A_5$ or $G = A_5$. Finally, as Γ is a non-complete graph of girth 3, Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. \square

4. GRAPHS OF GIRTH 4

By the assertion of Lemma 2.2, to study the family of $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs, we only need to consider the graphs with girth 3 or 4. This section is devoted to the girth 4 case, and the structure of such graphs depends strongly upon the value of the constant c_2 as in Definition 2.1. We begin with a simple combinatorial result:

Lemma 4.1. *Let Γ be a $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graph with valency k and girth at least 4. Let $u \in V\Gamma$. Then there are $k(k-1)$ edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$, and $k(k-1) = c_2|\Gamma_2(u)|$.*

Proof. Consider a vertex $v \in \Gamma(u)$. Since Γ has girth more than 3, all of the neighbors of v , except for u , lie in $\Gamma_2(u)$. Thus, there are $k-1$ edges from v to $\Gamma_2(u)$. Since there are k such vertices v , there are $k(k-1)$ edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$. As Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, the equation $k(k-1) = c_2|\Gamma_2(u)|$ follows by counting the same quantity from the other side: each vertex in $\Gamma_2(u)$ is incident with exactly c_2 edges between $\Gamma_2(u)$ and $\Gamma(u)$. \square

For a vertex $u \in V\Gamma$, we denote by $G_u^{\Gamma_i(u)}$ the permutation group induced by G_u on $\Gamma_i(u)$.

Lemma 4.2. *Let Γ be a $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graph with valency k and girth 4, and suppose that $c_2 = 2$. Then G_u acts 2-homogeneously, but not 2-transitively on $\Gamma(u)$ for each $u \in V\Gamma$. Further, $k = p^e \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ where p is a prime.*

Proof. Since $c_2 = 2$, each vertex $w \in \Gamma_2(u)$ uniquely determines a 2-subset in $\Gamma(u)$, namely the intersection $\Gamma(w) \cap \Gamma(u)$. We claim that the map $\psi : w \mapsto \Gamma(w) \cap \Gamma(u)$ is a bijection between $\Gamma_2(u)$ and the set of 2-subsets of $\Gamma(u)$. Suppose that $\psi(w_1) = \psi(w_2) = \{v_1, v_2\}$. Then $u, w_1, w_2 \in \Gamma(v_1)$ and $v_2 \in \Gamma_2(v_1)$. On the other hand, as v_2 is adjacent to u, w_1, w_2 , there are three edges from v_2 to $\Gamma(v_1)$, which is

impossible, as $c_2 = 2$. Hence ψ is injective. Since Γ has girth 4, it follows from Lemma 4.1 that $|\Gamma_2(u)| = k(k-1)/2 = \binom{k}{2}$, and so the map ψ is a bijection. Hence G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$ if and only if it is transitive on the set of 2-subsets in $\Gamma(u)$, that is, $G_u^{\Gamma(u)}$ acts 2-homogeneously on $\Gamma(u)$. Since Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive, $G_u^{\Gamma(u)}$ is not 2-transitive on $\Gamma(u)$. Thus by Lemma 2.3, $k = p^e \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ where p is a prime. \square

In the following lemma we characterize $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive Hamming graphs over an alphabet of size 2.

Lemma 4.3. *Let $\Gamma = H(d, 2)$ with $d > 2$, and let $G \leq \text{Aut } \Gamma \cong S_2 \wr S_d$. Then Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive if and only if $G = S_2 \wr H$ where H is a 2-homogeneous, but not 2-transitive subgroup of S_d . Further, in this case, $d = p^e \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.*

Proof. By [2, p. 222], Γ is $\text{Aut } \Gamma$ -distance transitive of girth 4, valency d , and $c_2 = 2$. Assume that the action of G on Γ is 2-distance transitive, but not 2-arc transitive. Then by Lemma 4.2, G_u is 2-homogeneous, but not 2-transitive on $\Gamma(u)$, for all u . Further, $d = p^e \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ where p is a prime. Let $A = \text{Aut } \Gamma = M \rtimes S_d$ where $M = (S_2)^d$. Let u be the vertex $(1, \dots, 1)$ and set $H = G_u$. If $g \in G$, then $g = mh$ where $m \in M$ and $h \in S_d$, and so $h \in H$. Hence $G \leq MH$. Then, by Dedekind's Modular Law, $(G \cap M)H = G \cap (MH) = G$. Thus $G \cap M$ is a transitive subgroup of G . Since M is regular, $G \cap M = M$, and so $M \leq G$. Thus $G = M \rtimes H = S_2 \wr H$. As the action of H on $\Gamma(u)$ is faithful, $H = G_u^{\Gamma(u)}$.

Conversely, assume that $G = S_2 \wr H$ and H is a 2-homogeneous, but not 2-transitive subgroup of S_d . Then G is transitive on $V\Gamma$. Since $G_u^{\Gamma(u)} = G_u = H$, $G_u^{\Gamma(u)}$ acts 2-homogeneously, but not 2-transitively on $\Gamma(u)$ for each $u \in V\Gamma$. Hence Γ is not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive and $G_u^{\Gamma(u)}$ is transitive on the set of 2-subsets of $\Gamma(u)$. Since Γ has girth 4 and $c_2 = 2$, we can construct a one-to-one correspondence between the 2-subsets of $\Gamma(u)$ and vertices of $\Gamma_2(u)$ as in the proof of Lemma 4.2. Thus G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$, so Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive. \square

We have treated the case where $c_2 = 2$. When c_2 is 'large' (that is, close to the valency) we can say a lot about the structure of Γ .

Lemma 4.4. *If Γ is a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graph with valency k and girth 4, then the following are valid.*

- (i) *If $c_2 = k$, then $\Gamma = K_{k,k}$.*
- (ii) *If $k \geq 3$ and $c_2 = k - 1$, then $\Gamma = \overline{(2 \times (k + 1))\text{-grid}}$.*

Proof. (i) Let (u, v, w) be a 2-arc. Since Γ has girth 4, u and w are nonadjacent, so w has k neighbors in $\Gamma(u)$, as $c_2 = k$. Since the valency of Γ is k , this forces $\Gamma(u) = \Gamma(w)$. By the $(G, 2)$ -distance transitivity of Γ , every vertex in $\Gamma_2(u)$ has all its neighbors in $\Gamma(u)$, and this implies that $\Gamma_3(u)$ is empty and there are no edges in $\Gamma_2(u)$. Thus Γ is a bipartite graph and the two biparts are $\Gamma(u)$ and $\{u\} \cup \Gamma_2(u)$. Every edge between the two biparts is present, so Γ is a complete bipartite graph. Since Γ is regular of valency k , we have $\Gamma = K_{k,k}$.

(ii) Let (u, v, w) be a 2-arc. Since Γ has girth 4 and $c_2 = k - 1$, by Lemma 4.1, we have $|\Gamma_2(u)| = k$. Let w' be the unique vertex in $\Gamma_2(u)$ that is not adjacent to v . Assume that the induced subgraph $[\Gamma_2(u)]$ contains an edge. As G_u is transitive on

$\Gamma_2(u)$, every vertex of $\Gamma_2(u)$ is adjacent to some vertex of $\Gamma_2(u)$. Since Γ has girth 4, the $k-1$ vertices in $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v)$ are pairwise nonadjacent, so every vertex of $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v)$ is adjacent to w' , which is impossible, as $|\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w')| = k-1$. Thus there are no edges in $[\Gamma_2(u)]$. Thus each vertex in $\Gamma_2(u)$ is adjacent to a unique vertex in $\Gamma_3(u)$.

Let $z \in \Gamma_3(u) \cap \Gamma(v)$. Since $c_2 = k-1$, every pair of vertices at distance 2 have $k-1$ common neighbors, so $|\Gamma(v) \cap \Gamma(z)| = k-1$. Hence z is adjacent to all vertices of $\Gamma_2(u)$ that are adjacent to v . If for all $v' \in \Gamma(u)$, $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v) = \Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v')$, then $|\Gamma_2(u)| = k-1$, which is a contradiction. Thus $\Gamma(u)$ contains a vertex v' such that $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v) \neq \Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v')$. In particular, $\Gamma_2(u) = \Gamma_2(u) \cap (\Gamma(v) \cup \Gamma(v'))$. Now v' and z must have a common neighbor in $\Gamma_2(u)$, and so v' and z are at distance 2. Thus, as $c_2 = k-1$, z is adjacent to all vertices of $\Gamma_2(u)$ that are adjacent to v' . Thus z is adjacent to all vertices of $\Gamma_2(u)$. Since $|\Gamma_2(u)| = k$, we find that there are no more vertices in Γ . Therefore, we have determined Γ completely, and $\Gamma = \overline{(2 \times (k+1))\text{-grid}}$. \square

5. PROOF OF MAIN RESULTS

We first prove Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Since Γ has girth 4, it follows that $2 \leq c_2 \leq k$. If $c_2 = k$, then, by Lemma 4.4, $\Gamma = K_{k,k}$. However, by Lemma 3.3, Γ is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive, whenever it is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, and hence this case cannot arise. Thus $2 \leq c_2 \leq k-1$. Statement (i) now follows from Lemmas 4.4(ii) and 3.2, while statement (ii) follows from Lemma 4.2 \square

Next we prove Corollary 1.2.

Proof of Corollary 1.2. If $p = 2$, then Γ is a cycle graph, so Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive if and only if it is $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive, which is a contradiction. Thus $p \geq 3$. Then by Theorem 1.1, either $\Gamma \cong \overline{(2 \times (p+1))\text{-grid}}$, or $2 \leq c_2 \leq p-2$. Assume that $2 \leq c_2 \leq p-2$. It follows from Lemma 4.1 that $p(p-1) = c_2 |\Gamma_2(u)|$. Since $2 \leq c_2 \leq p-2$, p and c_2 are coprime, so c_2 divides $p-1$. As $c_2 < p-1$, we get $2 \leq c_2 \leq (p-1)/2$ and this proves (i). Statement (ii) follows from Theorem 1.1(ii). Assume that $c_2 = (p-1)/2$. By Lemma 4.1, $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 2p$. If G_u were primitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$, then by Lemma 2.4, we would have, $p = 5$, and hence $c_2 = 2$. However, In this case $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$, which is a contradiction. Thus G_u is imprimitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$ and this shows (iii). \square

One can form an infinite family of examples that satisfy the conditions of Corollary 1.2 from Hamming graphs $H(p, 2)$ using Lemma 4.3.

In the following, we prove Theorem 1.3, that is, we determine all $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graphs of valency at most 5. We split the proof into two parts, as we consider the girth 4 and 3 cases separately in Propositions 5.1 and 5.2, respectively.

Proposition 5.1. *Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive graph of girth 4 and valency $k \in \{3, 4, 5\}$. Then $\Gamma \cong \overline{(2 \times k + 1)\text{-grid}}$, and G satisfies Condition 3.1.*

Proof. We claim that $c_2 = k-1$ in all cases. By Theorem 1.1, $c_2 \leq k-1$. If $k = 3$, then $c_2 \geq 2 = k-1$ follows from the girth condition, and so $c_2 = k-1$. If $k \in \{4, 5\}$

and $c_2 \leq k-2$, then we must have that $c_2 = 2$ (use Corollary 1.2 for $k = 5$). Hence, by Lemma 4.2, $k \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$: a contradiction, as $k \in \{4, 5\}$. Now the rest follows from Theorem 1.1(i). \square

Proposition 5.2. *Let Γ be a connected $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive graph of girth 3 and valency 4 or 5, and let $u \in V\Gamma$. Then one of the following is valid.*

- (i) Γ is the octahedron and either $G = S_2 \wr S_3$ or G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_2 \wr S_3$ and G projects onto S_3 ;
- (ii) $\Gamma \cong H(2, 3)$ and either $G = S_3 \wr S_2$ or G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_3 \wr S_2$ and G projects onto S_2 ;
- (iii) $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 8$ and Γ is the line graph of a connected cubic $(G, 3)$ -arc transitive graph;
- (iv) Γ is the icosahedron and $G = A_5$ or $A_5 \times S_2$.

In cases (i)–(iii), the valency of Γ is 4, while in case (iv), the valency is 5.

Proof. Suppose first that the valency is 4. Since Γ is $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive of valency 4 and girth 3, it follows that the induced graph $[\Gamma(u)]$ is a vertex transitive graph with 4 vertices of valency k where $1 \leq k \leq 3$. If $[\Gamma(u)]$ has valency 3, then $[\Gamma(u)]$ is complete, and so Γ is complete, which is a contradiction. If $[\Gamma(u)]$ has valency 2, then $[\Gamma(u)] \cong C_4$. Hence $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v)| = 1$ for any arc (u, v) , so $G_{u,v}$ is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v)$, that is, Γ is $(G, 2)$ -geodesic transitive. Thus by [5, Corollary 1.4], Γ is the octahedron. It follows from Lemma 3.4 that either $G = S_2 \wr S_3$, or G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_2 \wr S_3$ and G projects onto S_3 . Hence, case (i) is valid.

Now suppose that $[\Gamma(u)]$ has valency 1. Then $[\Gamma(u)] \cong 2K_2$ and there are 8 edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$. Further, each arc lies in a unique triangle. Let $\Gamma(u) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4\}$ be such that (v_1, v_2) and (v_3, v_4) are two arcs. Then $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_1)| = 2$, say $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_1) = \{w_1, w_2\}$. Since $[\Gamma(v_1)] \cong 2K_2$, it follows that v_2 is adjacent to neither w_1 nor w_2 . As $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_2)| = 2$, we have $|\Gamma_2(u)| \geq 4$. Since there are 8 edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$ and since G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$, we obtain that $8 \mid |\Gamma_2(u)|$, and so $|\Gamma_2(u)| \in \{4, 8\}$.

Suppose first that $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 4$. As noted above, v_2 is not adjacent to w_1 or w_2 . Set $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_2) = \{w_3, w_4\}$. Then $\Gamma_2(u) = \{w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4\}$. Since $[\Gamma(v_1)] \cong [\Gamma(v_2)] \cong 2K_2$, it follows that w_1, w_2 are adjacent and, similarly, w_3, w_4 are adjacent. Since $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 4$ and there are 8 edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$, we must have $|\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w_i)| = 2$. Since v_2, w_1 are nonadjacent, w_1 is adjacent either to v_3 or to v_4 , say v_3 . Then $\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w_1) = \{v_1, v_3\}$. As each arc lies in a unique triangle and (v_1, w_1, w_2) is a triangle, it follows that v_3 is not adjacent to w_2 . Hence v_3 is adjacent to either w_3 or w_4 , say w_3 . Then $\Gamma(v_3) = \{u, v_4, w_1, w_3\}$. Since $[\Gamma(v_3)] \cong 2K_2$ and u, v_4 are adjacent, it follows that w_1, w_3 are adjacent. Thus, $\Gamma(w_1) = \{v_1, w_2, v_3, w_3\}$. Finally, as $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_4)| = 2$ and v_4 is adjacent to neither w_1 nor w_3 , v_4 is adjacent to both w_2 and w_4 . Since $[\Gamma(v_4)] \cong 2K_2$ and (v_3, u, v_4) is a triangle, it follows that w_2, w_4 are adjacent. Now, the graph Γ is completely determined and $\Gamma \cong H(2, 3)$. By [2, Theorem 9.2.1], Γ is $(\text{Aut } \Gamma, 2)$ -distance transitive where $\text{Aut } \Gamma \cong S_3 \wr S_2$. Suppose that G is a proper subgroup of $\text{Aut } \Gamma$. Since G_u is transitive on $\Gamma(u)$ and $|\Gamma(u)| = 4$, $|G_u|$ is divisible by 4, so $|G|$ is divisible by $4|V\Gamma| = 36$. It follows that $|G| = 36$, so G is an index 2 subgroup of $S_3 \wr S_2$. Finally, as G_u is transitive on $\Gamma(u)$, G_u projects onto S_2 . Thus (ii) is valid.

Let us now consider the case when $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 8$. Then for each $z \in \Gamma_2(u)$, there is a unique 2-geodesic between u and z . Hence there is a one-to-one correspondence between the set of 2-geodesics starting from u and the set of vertices in $\Gamma_2(u)$. Since G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$, it follows that G_u is transitive on the set of 2-geodesics starting from u , so Γ is $(G, 2)$ -geodesic transitive. Therefore by Lemma 2.5, Γ is the line graph of a connected cubic $(G, 3)$ -arc transitive graph. Therefore (iii) is valid.

Assume now that the valency is 5. Let (u, v) be an arc. Since Γ is G -arc transitive, the induced subgraph $[\Gamma(u)]$ is vertex transitive. As Γ has girth 3 and non-complete, the valency k of $[\Gamma(u)]$ is at most 3. Since $[\Gamma(u)]$ is undirected, it follows that $[\Gamma(u)]$ has $5k/2$ edges, and so k is even; that is, $k = 2$. Thus $[\Gamma(u)] \cong C_5$.

Set $\Gamma(u) = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, v_4, v_5\}$ with $v_1 = v$ and assume (v_1, \dots, v_5) is a 5-cycle. Then $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_1)| = 2$ and say $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_1) = \{w_1, w_2\}$. Then $\Gamma(v_1) = \{u, v_2, v_5, w_1, w_2\}$. As $[\Gamma(v_1)] \cong C_5$ and (v_2, u, v_5) is a 2-arc, it follows that w_1, w_2 are adjacent, v_2 is adjacent to one of w_1 and w_2 and v_5 is adjacent to the other. Without loss of generality, assume v_2 is adjacent to w_1 and v_5 is adjacent to w_2 . In particular, v_2 and w_2 are not adjacent. Moreover, $2 \leq c_2 \leq 4$. Since there are 10 edges between $\Gamma(u)$ and $\Gamma_2(u)$, we have $10 = c_2 |\Gamma_2(u)|$, so $c_2 = 2$ and $|\Gamma_2(u)| = 5$.

Since $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_2)| = 2$, there exists w_3 in $\Gamma_2(u)$ which is adjacent to v_2 , and so $\Gamma(v_2) = \{u, v_1, v_3, w_1, w_3\}$. Note that (w_1, v_1, u, v_3) is a 3-arc, and as $[\Gamma(v_2)] \cong C_5$, it follows that w_3 is adjacent to both v_3 and w_1 . Since G_u is transitive on $\Gamma_2(u)$, $[\Gamma_2(u)]$ is a vertex transitive graph. Recall that w_1 is adjacent to w_2 and w_3 . It follows that $[\Gamma_2(u)] \cong C_5$. Thus $|\Gamma_3(u) \cap \Gamma(w_1)| = 1$, say $\Gamma_3(u) \cap \Gamma(w_1) = \{e\}$. Then (v_1, w_1, e) and (v_2, w_1, e) are two 2-geodesics. As $c_2 = 2$, $|\Gamma(v_1) \cap \Gamma(e)| = |\Gamma(v_2) \cap \Gamma(e)| = 2$. Hence $\{w_1, w_2, w_3\} \subseteq \Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(e)$.

Since $|\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_3)| = 2$, there exists $w_4 (\neq w_3) \in \Gamma_2(u)$ such that v_3, w_4 are adjacent. Noting that $\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w_1) = \{v_1, v_2\}$ and $\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w_2) = \{v_1, v_5\}$, we find $w_4 \notin \{w_1, w_2, w_3\}$. Since $[\Gamma(v_3)] \cong C_5$ and (w_3, v_2, u, v_4) is a 3-arc, it follows that w_4 is adjacent to both v_4 and w_3 . As (v_3, w_3, e) is a 2-geodesic, $|\Gamma(v_3) \cap \Gamma(e)| = 2$, so $w_4 \in \Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(e)$. Now (v_4, w_4, e) is a 2-geodesic, so $|\Gamma(v_4) \cap \Gamma(e)| = 2$, hence $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_4) \subset \Gamma(e)$. Let the remaining vertex of $\Gamma_2(u)$ be w_5 . Since $|\Gamma(u) \cap \Gamma(w_5)| = 2$, it follows that w_5 is adjacent to both v_4, v_5 . Hence $\Gamma_2(u) \cap \Gamma(v_4) = \{w_4, w_5\} \subset \Gamma(e)$. Thus $\Gamma_2(u) = \Gamma(e)$, so $\Gamma_3(u) = \{e\}$. Now we have completely determined the graph Γ , and this graph is the icosahedron. Finally, by Lemma 3.5, $G \cong S_2 \times A_5$ or A_5 . \square

The proof of Theorem 1.3. If the valency of Γ is 2 or the girth is greater than 4, then Γ cannot be $(G, 2)$ -distance transitive, but not $(G, 2)$ -arc transitive. Hence the valency is at least 3. If the valency and the girth are both equal to 3, then $\Gamma = K_4$. Hence Theorem 1.3 follows from Proposition 5.1, in the case of girth 4, and from Proposition 5.2 in the case of girth 4. \square

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